

Message Text

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67

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /028 W

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R 291245Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5143

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUDAPEST 0285

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, HU

SUBJ: CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT TALKS: THE INFORMATION
QUESTION

REF: STATE 17851

1. ON MORNING JANUARY 27 MCAULIFFE PRESENTED TO DEPFONMIN
JANOS NAGY NOTE NO. 33 BASED ON TEXT PARA 2 REFTEL. HAVING
EXPLAINED CONTENTS OF NOTE AND FIRM U.S. INTENTION TO
RESOLVE INFORMATION QUESTION BEFORE OR AT VERY LEAST SIMUL-
TANEOUSLY WITH CONCLUSION OF CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT,
MCAULIFFE DREW ON PARA 6 BUDAPEST 54 AND THEN LEFT WITH NAGY
A NON-PAPER READING AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: BY PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION OF CULTURAL, INFORMATIONAL
AND SCIENTIFIC MATERIALS, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA HAS IN MIND THE DISTRIBUTION OF, WITHOUT COST TO
THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO REQUEST IT, COPIES OF HUNGARIAN AND
ENGLISH LANGUAGE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MAGAZINES AND
PUBLICATIONS, SUCH AS: USA - HUNGARIAN, DIALOGUE, HORIZONS USA,
ENGLISH TEACHING FORUM, VOA SCHEDULES, ECONOMIC IMPACT,
AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS FALLING WITHIN THE CATEGORIES
MENTIONED ABOVE.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ALSO
PROPOSES THAT 10,000 COPIES OF THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE USA
MAGAZINE BE PLACED ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC AT DESIGNATED
MAJOR PUBLIC NEWSSTANDS IN THE CITIES OF BUDAPEST, MISKOLC,
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PECS, SZEGED, GYOR, AND DEBRECEN. UNQUOTE

2. SPEAKING "UNOFFICIALLY, PERSONALLY AND WITHOUT AUTHORITY," DEPFONMIN SAID GOH NOW READY TO LIFT ALL DISCRIMINATORY PROVISIONS AGAINST INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES BY AMERICAN EMBASSY BUDAPEST. IN OTHER WORDS, "COMPETENT AUTHORITIES" HAD ALREADY DECIDED THAT EMBASSY BUDAPEST WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENGAGE IN "PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION OF CULTURAL, INFORMATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC MATERIALS DESIGNED TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PEOPLES AND THE CULTURES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES" IN EXACTLY SAME MANNER AS OTHER FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS RESIDENT IN BUDAPEST IN ACCORDANCE WITH HUNGARIAN "CODE OF CONDUCT." WHEN ASKED TO CLARIFY LATTER PHRASE, NAGY REFERRED TO PARA 1 OF NON-PAPER AND EXPLAINED THAT "COMPETENT AUTHORITIES" NEITHER APPROVE NOR DISAPPROVE NOR CENSOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. HOWEVER, THEY INSIST THAT SUCH PUBLICATIONS CONTAIN NO MATERIAL WHICH WOULD DAMAGE HUNGARY'S RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES; AND THEY ASK THAT THE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS PROVIDE GOH WITH SAMPLE COPIES OF MATERIAL BEING DISTRIBUTED COINCIDENT WITH OR IMMEDIATELY SUBSEQUENT TO ITS ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION. THESE WERE DETAILS, SAID NAGY, WHICH FONOFF STAFF CAN WORK OUT WITH EMBASSY STAFF AS THEY HAVE DONE WITH ALL OTHER EMBASSIES. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTION, NAGY SAID THAT FONOFF NOTE ELIMINATING "DISCRIMINATION" AGAINST U.S. REQUIRES FINAL, FORMAL, PERSONAL APPROVAL BY FONMIN PUJA SINCE IT IS AN IMPORTANT MATTER AND THAT IT AWAITS HIS RETURN FROM ASIAN JOURNEY.

3. TURNING TO (2) ACCESS TO LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, CULTURAL CENTERS, READING ROOMS AND ARCHIVES, ETC," NAGY REMARKED ARCHLY THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO RESPOND. ALL PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND FACILITIES IN HUNGARY LIKE THOSE IN U.S. ARE IPSO FACTO OPEN TO ALL WHO WISH TO FREQUENT THEM. MCAULIFFE RESPONDED THAT A FORMULATION ALONG THESE VERY LINES IN AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES WOULD APPEAR TO MEET THE U.S. PROPOSAL VERY ADEQUATELY. AT WHICH POINT NAGY SAID THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO STATE THE OBVIOUS IN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, THAT THE GOH HAD NEVER ENTERED INTO ANY SUCH AGREEMENT WITH ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE -- WITH EMPHASIS ON FACT THAT VIEWS WERE PERSONAL ONES -- DOUBTED

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THAT GOH WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY. HE THEN QUICKLY ADDED THAT HE DID RECALL THAT IN SOME SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS WITH SOME OTHER GOVERNMENTS IMPLEMENTING BILATERAL CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENTS, GOH HAD MADE PROVISIONS FOR SPECIAL ACCESS TO ARCHIVES AND DOCUMENTS FOR SCHOLARS AND SCIENTISTS. OTHERWISE, SAID NAGY, GOH DOES NOT "REGULATE" MATTERS OF THIS SORT. MCAULIFE SAID HE TRUSTED THAT FONOFF WILL CAREFULLY

EXAMINE ENTIRE INFORMATION QUESTION IN LIGHT HELSINKI
DECLARATION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUDAPEST 0285

4. ADDRESSING U.S. PROPOSAL TO SELL USA MAGAZINE ON HUNGARIAN NEWSSTANDS (SECOND PARA OF U.S. NON-PAPER), NAGY SAID GOH SIMPLY NOT ABLE TO BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT SUCH A SCHEME. HE SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH BILATERAL US-SOVIET ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECIPROCAL PUBLIC SALE OF PUBLICATIONS AND THAT HE HAD EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT CONTENTS OF USA MAGAZINE WOULD OFFER NO DIFFICULTIES, WHETHER DISTRIBUTED GRATIS BY EMBASSY OR SOLD ON NEWSSTANDS. ALTHOUGH HUNGARIAN POSITION MIGHT LOOK SILLY IN AMERICAN EYES, GOH CANNOT COPE WITH U.S. PROPOSAL FOR TWO REASONS:

A) UNLIKE U.S. AND USSR, HUNGARY IS NEITHER GREAT POWER NO WEALTHY NATION. HUNGARY WOULD OF COURSE EXPECT RECIPROCAL ACCESS TO AMERICAN NEWSSTANDS; AND THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD GIVE DIFFICULTIES. BUT TO OFFER 10,000 COPIES OF HUNGARIAN MAGAZINE FOR SALE TO OVER 200 MILLION AMERICANS WOULD BE GROTESQUE OPERATION. BUT IF HUNGARY WERE TO INCREASE NUMBERS TO SENSIBLE FIGURE, HUNGARIAN BUDGET WOULD SUFFER ENORMOUS STRAIN AND USG IN EXERCISE OF ITS RECIPROCAL RIGHTS WOULD HAVE USA MAGAZINE ON EVERY SINGLE NEWSSTAND IN ENTIRE COUNTRY.

B) FROM BUREAUCRATIC POINT OF VIEW PROPOSAL HAS NO

HOPE OF SUCCESS SINCE HUNGARY, UNLIKE USSR, HAS NO
ORGANIZATIONAL MECHANISM WHICH CAN DISTRIBUTE AND
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RYOGFTIRJPNNGT FOR PERIODICALS PUBLISHED BY A
FOREIGN GOVERNMENT FVC NAGY NENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT
KOSSUTH PRICWIMI HOK(#) PUBLISHERS OF HIGH QUALITY
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE HUNGARIAN QUARTERLY FACE ALMOST
IDENTICAL PROBLEM AND THAT HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO
HELP THEM SOLVE IT. AFTER HUNGARIAN QUARTERLY
PRINTED AND SUBSCRIPTION COPIES DISTRIBUTED,
PUBLISHERS WHO HAVE REPEATEDLY TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS
TO SELL OVERSTOCK ON NEWSSTANDS AT MAJOR HOTELS
FREQUENTED BY FOREIGNERS, HAVE FOUND SELVES OBLIGED
TO GIVE COPIES WITHOUT
COMPENSE TO CONCIERGES
AND REQUEST FREE DISTRIBUTION TO ROOMS OF VISITING
VIP'S.

5. MCAULIFFE REPLIED THAT HE FOUND NAGY'S EXPLANATION
BEWILDERING IF NOT INCOMPREHENSIBLE, AND THAT HE WAS
PERSONALLY PLEASED THAT USG HAS PUT FORWARD INFORMALLY
AND UNOFFICIALLY A PROPOSAL THAT IS TOTALLY NEW TO THE
HUNGARIAN SCENE. WITHOUT WISHING TO PRESS POINT, HE
HOPED THAT GOH MIGHT FIND IT POSSIBLE IN KEEPING WITH
TENOR OF HELSINKI DECLARATION TO INNOVATE AS SOME OTHER
"SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" HAD DONE WITHOUT EMBARKING ON A
COURSE THAT IS HURTFUL TO ANYONE'S INTERESTS. WHEN
MCAULIFFE INQUIRED WHETHER A LESSER FIGURE OF 5000 OR
2000 COPIES, OR A LIMITED EXPERIMENTAL SALE INITIALLY
CONFINED TO BUDAPEST MIGHT MAKE THE PROBLEM MORE TRACTABLE,
NAGY REPLIED IN NEGATIVE ADDING THAT GOH HAS YET TO ENTER
INTO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WITH ANY FOREIGN
GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE DOUBTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES
WOULD BE INCLINED TO LAUNCH SUCH A PRECEDENT-MAKING PROJECT
INITIALLY WITH USG.

6. NAGY CONCLUDED DISCUSSION THIS TOPIC BY SAYING EMBASSY
COULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE WORD WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS,
AFTER PUJA'S RETURN, ADVISING THAT DISCRIMINATORY
RESTRICTIONS WERE LIFTED, THAT KKI'S ROSTA WOULD SOON
PROPOSE CERTAIN TEXTUAL REVISIONS OF U.S. DRAFT OF CULTURAL/
SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT (75 BUDAPEST 3909).
MCULIFFE

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NOTE BY OC/T: (#) AS RECEIVED.

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